

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for static elimination of a cleaning target in a cleaning step, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing in a cleaning apparatus a conducting means capable of coming into contact with and separating from the cleaning target at a plurality of portions thereof, the conducting means comprising a plurality of conducting members each having a shape of a pin and a substrate which holds the conducting members in such a way that they are capable of advancing and retreating in a direction substantially perpendicular to the cleaning target;

moving the conducting members substantially perpendicular to the cleaning target such that to portions where the conducting members come into contact with the plurality of portions of the cleaning target;

maintaining contact between the conducting members and the plurality of portions of the cleaning target; and

eliminating, by grounding via the conducting means, the static electrification on the cleaning target that is caused by a cleaning member during cleaning.

Claim 2-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended) A static elimination assembly for performing static elimination of a cleaning target in a cleaning apparatus, the assembly comprising:

a conducting means disposed in the cleaning apparatus, comprising a plurality of conducting members each having a shape of a pin and a substrate which holds the conducting members in such a way that they are capable of advancing and retreating in a direction substantially perpendicular to a cleaning target, wherein the plurality of conducting members are

capable of coming into contact with and separating from ~~[[a]]~~ the cleaning target at a plurality of portions thereof;

a movement means for bringing the conducting members in a direction substantially perpendicular to the cleaning target and into contact with, and separating the same from, the plurality of portions of the cleaning target; and

a grounding means connected to the conducting members for eliminating static electricity generated in the cleaning target.

Claims 5-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 4, wherein the movement means move the substrate and the conducting members to portions where the contacting members come into contact with the plurality of portions of the cleaning target as the substrate is moving.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 8, wherein the movement means are capable of maintaining contact between the conducting members and the plurality of portions of the cleaning target.